

the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2943

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2943 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2944

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2944 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2957

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2957 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2961

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2961 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2962

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 proposed to H.R. 3590, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 proposed to H.R. 3590, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2969

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cospon-

sor of amendment No. 2969 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2991

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2991 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2993

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2993 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2995

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2995 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska:

S. 2846. A bill to authorize the issuance of United States War Bonds to aid in funding of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to help finance the war effort without sharp tax increases or increased foreign borrowing. The United States War Bonds Act of 2009 will authorize the Treasury to issue and market War Bonds to the American people to help finance the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I believe that we need shared sacrifice and fiscal discipline in financing the war effort. I don't believe our first instinct should always be a rush to tax. The government has gone to great lengths to address the economic downturn and adding new taxes right now could undermine those efforts. We need to work to reduce Federal spending wherever possible and reduce the growth in spending to finance the war.

War bonds are a cost-effective way to reduce our dependence on foreign creditors and create an outlet for Americans to express their patriotism and support for our servicemembers and America's mission. War bonds allow us to borrow from ourselves, rather than other countries.

This legislation finds a precedent in World War II savings bonds. From May 1, 1941 through December 1945, the War Finance Division and its predecessors were responsible for the sale of nearly \$186 billion worth of government securities. Of this, more than \$54 billion was in the form of War Savings bonds.

Although the times and economic circumstances are different than the 1940s, America's commitment to protecting freedom and our way of life has not waned. My hope is that we can tap into the same spirit of patriotism and create a sense of participation in the war effort akin to that shown by the greatest generation.

The new military strategy increasing troops by 30,000 for Afghanistan announced last week by President Obama is estimated to cost \$30 billion beyond the baseline for Iraq and Afghanistan funding, which stands around \$130 billion for 2010. The United States public debt is currently more than \$7.6 trillion and nearly \$3.5 trillion—46 percent—of the debt is held by foreign investors. While there are no simple solutions to our fiscal woes, while we endeavor to get our fiscal house in order, we must also be responsible borrowers and reduce our dependence on foreign creditors; this is a step in that direction.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2847. A bill to regulate the volume of audio on commercials; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act of 2009—the CALM Act. I want to thank my original cosponsor Senator SCHUMER for his support of this straightforward and commonsense legislation, which would require the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, to limit the volume of television advertisements to a level no louder than the average volume level of the programs during which the advertisements appear. This time for this Act is overdue. All too often over the years, Americans, sitting down after a long workday or workweek to enjoy their favorite television shows, have been assaulted by commercials at volumes that are degrees of magnitude louder than the shows themselves. The FCC first received enough complaints from viewers to look into the problem in the 1960s—when television was in its earliest stages—but technology did not exist to fix the problem. Each decade, as consumer complaints piled up, the FCC had to reexamine the loudness issue. Unfortunately, it took no action

even with the technology improved. The complaints continue to this day; in the 25 quarterly reports on consumer complaints released by the FCC since 2002, 21 have listed as a top complaint the loudness of television commercials.

But now, with the digital transition complete and new broadcast technology available, we can finally take this long-overdue action. We now have a common digital platform used by all broadcasters, which presents a terrific opportunity to standardize the loudness of the ads broadcast into our living rooms. As Consumers Union, the nonprofit organization that publishes Consumers Report has stated, in testimony before the House of Representatives, "the CALM Act provides an elegant and commonsense solution to finally ending a forty-five year consumer complaint in the United States."

The House has already begun its consideration of companion legislation, and I applaud the leadership of Representative ESHOO on this issue. The television industry has been deeply involved in the drafting of this legislation, and the standards it adopts are practicable, affordable, and effective. I hope my Senate colleagues will act quickly to pass the CALM Act and finally put an end to this longstanding irritation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2849. A bill to require a study and report on the feasibility and potential of establishing a deep water sea port in the Arctic to protect and advance strategic United States interests within the evolving and ever more important region; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as you are undoubtedly aware, the U.S. is an arctic Nation. As such, the U.S. must ensure that not only its economic and environmental interests in the region are protected, but also its national defense and homeland security interests. While the U.S. maintains a strong working relationship with the 7 other arctic nations—Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden—these nations also have their own interests to protect in the arctic region. Despite those relationships, the U.S. cannot assume that these nations will protect our interests in the region. The ability for the U.S. to project its territorial claims and protect its economic interests in the arctic will become increasingly important as the arctic shipping lanes become more accessible as the seasonal arctic ice decreases. With the high potential for increased and industrial and commercial activity in the arctic region, the U.S. must ensure that it is prepared to protect human life as well as the vulnerable arctic environment.

With an expected increase in arctic activity on the horizon, the U.S. cannot wait until our interests in the region are threatened before we act. In that light, the Arctic Deep Water Sea

Port Act of 2009 is a major step towards protecting vital U.S. interests in the region. The Arctic Deep Water Sea Port Act of 2009 directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a deep water port in the arctic to protect U.S. strategic interests in the region. As the lead Departments for National Defense and Homeland Security initiatives for the U.S., the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, while working alongside their subordinate agencies, are best suited for determining and implementing policy decisions that protect U.S. sovereignty and national security.

This two-year study is designed to determine what strategic capabilities a deep water port could provide as well as an optimal location that would provide protection for a wide spectrum of U.S. initiatives. While studying the infrastructure needs for such a port, this study will also endeavor to determine the resource and timeframe needs to establish such a port, given the complex environmental constraints that the arctic marine environment provides. Upon completion of this study, the U.S. will be better positioned to understand the resource and development needs for the arctic region that are required to protect our interests in the region.

Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2851. A bill to make permanent certain education tax incentives, to modify rules relating to college savings plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am offering legislation to make permanent a number of education-related tax relief measures. My legislation also improves and makes permanent helpful provisions for 529 plans and the American Opportunity tax credit for education.

At the first hearing I held when I became Chairman of the Finance Committee in 2001, I made clear that education tax policy was a priority of mine. As Chairman, I was able to remove the 60-payment limit for deducting student loan interest and I was able to increase the income limits for that deduction. This was not the only time I fought hard to allow students to deduct their student loan interest. In 1997, I was able to re-instate the student loan interest deduction that Congress had eliminated from our tax laws. However, the 60-payment limit on the deductibility of student loan interest remained. I ensured that the 2001 tax relief bill took care of that problem. Other incentives for education that I was able to enact into law in 2001 included raising the amount that can be contributed to an education saving account from \$500 to \$2,000; making distributions from pre-paid college savings plans and tuition plans tax-free; and making permanent the tax-free

treatment of employer-provided educational assistance. These tax policies and many others, including those for school renovations, repairs and construction, have proven their value to Iowa students in dollars and cents, year after year. The tax relief has delivered measureable educational assistance to Iowans and students and families nationwide, making education more affordable and accessible.

One draw-back of enacting these provisions in the 2001 tax relief bill, however, is that there was a sunset provision attached to that entire piece of legislation. All of the tax relief needs to be made permanent. Especially the education-related tax provisions. That is what my bill today does. My bill makes these provisions permanent.

It is no coincidence that I am introducing my education tax bill on the day the President of the United States talked about jobs. Our economy demands well-educated workers. The popularity of education tax incentives is good news for workers who find themselves unemployed or who want to go back to school to advance, or even change, their careers. Congress is willing to consider permanent tax relief for companies to buy machinery. Why isn't Congress willing to make an investment in people? That is what tax relief for education is. An investment in our future. It is just as important as job-creating tax incentives for businesses. Some will say we can't afford this, but we really can't afford to lose billions of dollars of help for Americans working hard to educate their kids.

Education has made this country great. We should not let this opportunity pass us by. We should not let these education-related tax provisions expire. We should also continue to help make education affordable for families and students. This makes education accessible for all. I look forward to working with my colleagues on passing this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2851

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT EXTENSION AND INCREASE OF AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF CREDIT; INCREASE OF CREDIT AMOUNT.—Section 25A is amended—

(1) by striking "\$1,000" each place it appears in subsection (b)(1) and inserting "\$2,000";

(2) by striking "the applicable limit" in subsection (b)(1)(B) and inserting "\$4,000";

(3) by striking paragraph (4) of subsection (b),

(4) by striking “2 TAXABLE YEARS” in the heading of subparagraph (A) of subsection (b)(2) and inserting “4 TAXABLE YEARS”,

(5) by striking “2 prior taxable years” in subsection (b)(2)(A) and inserting “4 prior taxable years”,

(6) by striking “2 YEARS” in the heading of subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(2) and inserting “4 YEARS”,

(7) by striking “first 2 years” in subsection (b)(2)(C) and inserting “first 4 years”,

(8) by striking “tuition and fees” in subparagraph (A) of subsection (f)(1) and inserting “tuition, fees, and course materials”,

(9) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(1) HOPE SCHOLARSHIP CREDIT.—The amount which would (but for this paragraph) be taken into account under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) for the taxable year shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the amount which bears the same ratio to the amount which would be so taken into account as—

“(A) the excess of—

“(i) the taxpayer’s modified adjusted gross income for such taxable year, over

“(ii) \$80,000 (\$160,000 in the case of a joint return), bears to

“(B) \$10,000 (\$20,000 in the case of a joint return).”

“(2) LIFETIME LEARNING CREDIT.—The amount which would (but for this paragraph) be taken into account under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) for the taxable year shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the amount which bears the same ratio to the amount which would be so taken into account as—

“(A) the excess of—

“(i) the taxpayer’s modified adjusted gross income for such taxable year, over

“(ii) \$40,000 (\$80,000 in the case of a joint return), bears to

“(B) \$10,000 (\$20,000 in the case of a joint return).”

(10) by striking “DOLLAR LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF CREDIT” in the heading of paragraph (1) of subsection (h) and inserting “HOPE SCHOLARSHIP CREDIT”,

(11) by striking “2001” in subsection (h)(1)(A) and inserting “2011”,

(12) by striking “the \$1,000 amounts under subsection (b)(1)” in subsection (h)(1)(A) and inserting “the dollar amounts under subsections (b)(1) and (d)(1)”,

(13) by striking “calendar year 2000” in subsection (h)(1)(A)(ii) and inserting “calendar year 2010”,

(14) by striking “If any amount” and all that follows in subparagraph (B) of subsection (h)(1) and inserting “If any amount under subsection (b)(1) as adjusted under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of \$100, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$100. If any amount under subsection (d)(1) as adjusted under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of \$1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$1,000.”,

(15) by inserting “OF LIFETIME LEARNING CREDIT” after “INCOME LIMITS” in the heading of paragraph (2) of subsection (h),

(16) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following new paragraphs:

“(4) CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—In the case of a taxable year to which section 26(a)(2) does not apply, so much of the credit allowed under subsection (a) as is attributable to the Hope Scholarship Credit shall not exceed the excess of—

“(A) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over

“(B) the sum of the credits allowable under this subpart (other than this subsection and

sections 23, 25D, and 30D) and section 27 for the taxable year.

Any reference in this section or section 24, 25, 25B, 26, 904, or 1400C to a credit allowable under this subsection shall be treated as a reference to so much of the credit allowable under subsection (a) as is attributable to the Hope Scholarship Credit.

“(5) PORTION OF CREDIT MADE REFUNDABLE.—40 percent of so much of the credit allowed under subsection (a) as is attributable to the Hope Scholarship Credit (determined after the application of subsection (d)(1) and without regard to this paragraph and section 26(a)(2) or paragraph (4), as the case may be) shall be treated as a credit allowable under subpart C (and not allowed under subsection (a)). The preceding sentence shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year if such taxpayer is a child to whom subsection (g) of section 1 applies for such taxable year.”, and

(17) by striking subsection (i).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 24(b)(3)(B) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(2) Section 25(e)(1)(C)(ii) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(3) Section 26(a)(1) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(4) Section 25B(g)(2) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(5) Section 904(i) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(6) Section 1400C(d)(2) is amended by striking “25A(i)” and inserting “25A(b)”.

(7) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) is amended by striking “25A by reason of subsection (i)(6) thereof” and inserting “25A by reason of subsection (b)(5) thereof”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

(d) APPLICATION OF EGTRRA SUNSET.—The amendment made by subsection (b)(1) shall be subject to title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 in the same manner as the provision of such Act to which such amendment relates.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EGTRRA PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall not apply to the amendments made by sections 401, 402, 411, 412, 413, and 431 of such Act.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 222 is amended by striking subsection (e).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SEC. 4. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section 62(a)(2) is amended by striking “during 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, or 2009” and inserting “after 2001”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SEC. 5. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 54E(c) is amended by striking “and, except as provided in paragraph (4), zero thereafter” and inserting “and, except as provided in paragraph (5), \$700,000,000 for each calendar year thereafter”.

(b) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 54E is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any calendar year after 2011, the \$700,000,000 amount in paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2010’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any increase determined under this paragraph is not a multiple of \$1,000,000, such increase shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$1,000,000.”.

(c) CREDITS NOT TO BE STRIPPED.—Section 54E is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) CREDITS NOT TO BE STRIPPED.—Subsection (i) of section 54A shall not apply with respect to any qualified zone academy bond.”.

(d) DAVIS-BACON RULES NOT TO APPLY TO QZABS OR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS.—Section 1601 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4), by inserting “and” at the end of paragraph (2), and by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued after December 31, 2010.

(2) DAVIS-BACON RULES.—The amendments made by subsection (d) shall apply to obligations issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 54F is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3),

(2) by inserting “and” at the end of paragraph (1), and

(3) by striking “for 2010, and” in paragraph (2) and inserting “thereafter”.

(b) ALLOCATIONS FOR INDIAN SCHOOLS.—Paragraph (4) of section 54F(d) is amended by striking “for calendar year 2010” and inserting “for each calendar year after 2009”.

(c) EXTENSION OF SMALL ISSUER EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (vii) of section 148(f)(4)(D) is amended by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”.

(2) ELIMINATION OF EGTRRA SUNSET.—Title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall not apply to the amendments made by section 421 of such Act.

(d) CREDITS NOT TO BE STRIPPED.—Section 54F is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) CREDITS NOT TO BE STRIPPED.—Subsection (i) of section 54A shall not apply with respect to any qualified school construction bond.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued after December 31, 2010.

SEC. 7. PERMANENT EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF SECTION 529 RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iii) of section 529(e)(3)(A) is amended by striking “in 2009 or 2010”.

(b) ABILITY TO CHANGE INVESTMENT OPTIONS.—Subsection (e) of section 529 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) ALLOWABLE CHANGE OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.—A program shall not fail to be treated as meeting the requirements of subsection (b)(4) merely because such program allows a designated beneficiary to change investment options under the plan not more than 4 times per year.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) EXTENSION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

(2) INVESTMENT OPTIONS.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 372—DESIGNATING MARCH 2010 AS “NATIONAL AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH” AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE RESEARCH

Mr. LEVIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 372

Whereas autoimmune diseases are chronic, disabling diseases in which underlying defects in the immune system lead the body to attack its own organs and tissues;

Whereas autoimmune diseases can affect any part of the body, including the blood, blood vessels, muscles, nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, and multiple-organ systems, and can be life-threatening;

Whereas researchers have identified over 80 different autoimmune diseases, and suspect at least 40 additional diseases of qualifying as autoimmune diseases;

Whereas researchers have identified a close genetic relationship and a common pathway of disease that exists among autoimmune diseases, explaining the clustering of autoimmune diseases in individuals and families;

Whereas the family of autoimmune diseases is under-recognized, and poses a major health care challenge to the United States;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that autoimmune diseases afflict up to 23,500,000 people in the United States, 75 percent of whom are women, and that the prevalence of autoimmune diseases is rising;

Whereas NIH estimates the annual direct health care costs associated with autoimmune diseases at more than \$100,000,000,000, with over 250,000 new diagnoses each year;

Whereas autoimmune diseases are among the top 10 leading causes of death in female children and adult women;

Whereas autoimmune diseases most often affect children and young adults, leading to a lifetime of disability;

Whereas diagnostic tests for most autoimmune diseases are not standardized, making autoimmune diseases very difficult to diagnose;

Whereas because autoimmune diseases are difficult to diagnose, treatment is often delayed, resulting in irreparable organ damage and unnecessary suffering;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies reported that the United States is behind other countries in research into immune system self-recognition, the cause of autoimmune diseases;

Whereas a study by the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association revealed that it takes the average patient with an autoimmune disease more than 4 years, and costs more than \$50,000, to get a correct diagnosis;

Whereas there is a significant need for more collaboration and cross-fertilization of basic autoimmune research;

Whereas there is a significant need for research focusing on the etiology of all autoimmune-related diseases, in order to increase understanding of the root causes of these diseases rather than treating the symptoms after the disease has already had its destructive effect;

Whereas the National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups is a coalition of na-

tional organizations focused on autoimmune diseases, working to consolidate the voices of patients with autoimmune diseases and to promote increased education, awareness, and research into all aspects of autoimmune diseases through a collaborative approach; and

Whereas designating March 2010 as “National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month” would help educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective treatments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2010 as “National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the efforts of health care providers and autoimmune patient advocacy and education organizations to increase awareness of the causes of, and treatments for, autoimmune diseases; and

(3) supports the goal of increasing Federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as the best diagnostic methods and treatments for people with autoimmune diseases.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this resolution designates March 2010 as National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month. The purpose of the resolution is to raise awareness of autoimmune diseases and the need for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as the best diagnostic methods and treatments for people with autoimmune diseases.

Autoimmune diseases are chronic, disabling diseases in which underlying defects in the immune system lead the body to attack its own organs and tissues. They can affect any part of the body—blood, blood vessels, muscles, nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, and multiple-organ systems—and can be life-threatening.

Researchers have identified over 80 different autoimmune diseases, including multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile diabetes, Crohn's disease, scleroderma, polymyositis, lupus, Sjogren's disease and Graves' disease, and suspect at least 40 additional diseases of having an autoimmune basis. The National Institutes of Health estimates that autoimmune diseases afflict more than 23 million people in the U.S. Seventy-five percent of the people affected with autoimmune diseases are women, and the prevalence of autoimmune diseases is rising. However, the family of autoimmune diseases is underrecognized, and this poses a major health care challenge to the U.S.

Diagnostic tests for autoimmune diseases are not standardized, which makes autoimmune diseases very difficult to diagnose. Because autoimmune diseases are difficult to diagnose, treatment is often delayed, resulting in irreparable organ damage and unnecessary suffering.

There is a significant need for more collaboration and cross-fertilization of basic autoimmune research, with a particular focus on the etiology of all autoimmune-related diseases in order to increase understanding of the root causes of these diseases rather than treating the symptoms after the disease has had its destructive effect.

It is my hope that this resolution will help educate the public about

autoimmune diseases and the continued need for research towards accurate diagnosis, and effective treatments.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3001. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3002. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3003. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3004. Mrs. HAGAN (for herself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3005. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3006. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3007. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3008. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3009. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3010. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3011. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.